

WATERING

When growing marihuana, the most common mistake is to treat the plants as if they were geraniums or petunias by watering them daily. If you do this with *Cannabis sativa*, you will undoubtedly have a good crop of hemp. THE SOIL SHOULD BE KEPT RELATIVELY DRY, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR CROP IS INDOORS. Stem rot frequently occurs indoors because of the absence of the sun's rays to properly dry the soil. Stem rot can be avoided if you are careful about the manner in which you water. A good trick is to take a pencil and "dig out" a small circular trench about 1/4" deep, 1/4" wide, and 1/2" from the plant at every point, like a moat surrounding a castle. Carefully pour the water into the trench and you will have watered the plant without any water touching the stem. Of course this technique should not be used in the early stages of the plants' growth because of the chance of injuring the roots.

If you are growing the plants in flower pots, you can water the plants by placing the flower pots in a dish or tray filled with water and letting the moisture soak upwards.

GIVE YOUR PLANTS THE MINIMUM OF WATER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME USE A LITTLE COMMON SENSE. If you see the plants wilting give them some water, but at no time after transplanting should the soil be drenched or saturated. The strongest grass is grown in hot, dry climates. On September 1, 1969, the San Diego Police Department chopped down a 6-1/2 foot marihuana plant growing a few feet from the Cabrillo National Monument in the Point Loma section of the city. The United States Weather Bureau in San Diego gave me the following figures: Rainfall 1969: April, 0.21"; May, 0.17"; June, 0.01"; July, no rain; August, 0.01". Statistically, the plant received less than 1/2" of rain in five months, not to mention the fact that San Diego is relatively hot and the sun shines almost every day. Yet the plant was 6-1/2 feet tall, about 3 feet wide, and very bushy.

Marihuana matures in about 4 to 7 months, depending on the growing season in your area. Don't worry if your plants seem to be growing slowly and do not show signs of reaching maturity. The plant adapts to the length of the growing season and the longer the plant takes to mature, the more potent it will be, provided it is not in a rainy and cold climate. As the plant reaches maturity and the flower stalks start to develop, it is wise to know how to distinguish the male from the female. You will find pictures and explanations of both the male and female on the center page.

As you see the flowers developing, you should postpone watering so that the plant will send additional resin to the top for protection. If your crop is indoors, you will want to fertilize the female by holding the male plant over the female and shaking the pollen into its pistillate flower. This will ensure a nice bunch of seeds for your next crop.